# Ecclesia Plantanda

A monthly message to the home missionary family of the Board of American Missions. United Lutheran Church in America, 231 Madison Ave., New York 16, N. Y.

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## Looking Toward Seattle

The Board and its staff are looking toward the convention of the ULCA at Seattle, October 10-15, with a great deal of concern. It will be expected to report its stewardship to the Church at large. A summary of its statistics wil be found elsewhere in this issue. It realizes also that the spirit that it displays by its report and oral presentations will influence the amount of support that the Church will give for its future operations. Its staff members will undoubtedly be sought for many conferences by synodical officials and missionaries on the field.

The Board is scheduled for two public appearances. The first is the home mission rally that it is arranging for the afternoon of the opening of the convention. It has engaged the Junior Ballroom of the Olympic Hotel from 3:30 to 5:30 on Wednesday, October 8th, for this meeting. All home missionaries and administrative officials of synods and any others interested in home missions are urged and expected to be present.

### Wednesday Afternoon Rally

The main address will be given by the Rev. Professor Paul H. Roth, D.D. of Northwestern seminary, well known to the Church by reason of his chapel meditations at the Des Moines convention two years ago. Dr. Roth has home missions in his very blood. He was born in a home mission parsonage in Utica, N. Y., and has been influenced by the spirit of home missions throughout his life. His early ministry was devoted to mission congregations in Beloit, Wis., and Maywood, Ill. He in turn has influenced hundreds of theological students through his professorship in Chicago and Northwestern seminaries with a zeal for evangelizing America. His address should be a big lift to the whole program of the Board. He will be introduced by Mr. Robert K. Rolfsness, an active layman of the Pacific synod. A discussion period will follow.

### Saturday at Convention

The platform presentation will consist of brief addresses by Board and staff members to the accompaniment of the erection piece by piece of a large representation of a church building. The purpose is to show that the work of the Board contributes to the spiritual structure of the church even when it is dealing with the gathering of congregations and the building of physical churches. It has prepared a souvenir leaflet reproducing the church that will be erected summarizing the themes of addresses from the platform.

## Executive Committee of New Synod

*Left to right: Pastor C. G. Schnorr; President Eduardo Roig; Secretary M. G. Franke; Mr. Darnley Petersen, Pastor Evaristo Falco. The three in the center are delegates to the Seattle convention.*

### Important Recommendation

The Board is departing from long custom by bringing in a recommendation to the convention:

"In view of the situation in 1952 and 1953 which will require $500,000 in each of those years in excess of the anticipated income of the board regardless of measures of relief that may take effect in or after 1954, it is recommended that The United Lutheran Church in America in convention assembled urge its constituent synods and congregations to extend themselves to pay in excess of the apportionment for 1952-1953 so as to afford a large sum in Part II and thus make possible the allocation of a substantial sum to meet the most urgent needs for church extension."

The background of this proposed action is the study the Board has made of the disparity between its available funds for church extension and the heavy demands that are made upon it from the field. A few months ago it passed a resolution looking toward a request that the Church put on a special campaign for church extension funds. The resultant studies in preparing such a request have convinced it that such a church-wide appeal would be unwise at this time. To quote from its report:

"Encouraged by the sympathetic attitude of the Church as evidenced by increase in benevolence, substantial allocations from Part II of the apportionment, and the co-operative spirit of the Finance Committee of the Executive Board in recent hearings, the Board of American Missions is pursuing its task confident of an increased financial response on the part of the Church at large both through apportioned benevolences and through special gifts."

### Reliance on Benevolence

In 1952 in addition to receiving its full share of Part I of the apportionment allocated to it the Board was granted $272,621.15 of the allocations from Part II. It has learned that the Executive Board is recommending a total budget for 1954 and 1955 of $6,008,090 of which the Board of American Missions' share (Part I) would be $2,206,500. This will enable it to carry on through those two years approximately the amount of work that it is currently doing. If the Church meets the full apportionment there will also be liberal sums for allocation in the future and the Board feels that it has a just claim upon substantial sums from such church income. It is especially concerned about income for the balance of 1952 and through 1953 hoping for full apportionment and allocations these two years also. While even with these hopes realized it will not be able to take up all the slack that has been accumulating since the restrictions of World War II years, it feels that the occasional delays and disappointments in church buildings do not warrant the putting on of an intensive church-wide appeal at this time. It is hoped that this action will not give the impression that the Board is able to meet all of the current needs that come to its attention. That is not the case. It is in perpetual embarrassment because of necessary refusals and delays in financing mission congregations.

At the present time there are 47 organized congregations without church buildings, plus 28 fields being developed and soon to be organized, and 56 approved and awaiting mission developers.

The only way to meet these and the constantly developing needs are either enlarged giving toward the general benevolences of the Church or special gifts to the work of home missions. (See summary of Board's convention report.)

Redeemer, Syracuse, made its final payment on church extension loans in July, thus becoming entirely self-supporting. Accompanying the check was a note of deep appreciation.

## New Feeder to Missions

The Board is deeply interested in the opening of the new Pacific Theological Seminary at Berkeley for three reasons.

1. It recognizes that the existence of such a seminary will do much to increase the ministerial supply in that fast growing section of the country and thus help to man the many fields that are awaiting development there.

2. A new mission is under development in that immediate vicinity.

3. The president of the new institution, the Rev. Charles B. Foelsch, Ph.D., is an active member of the Board of American Missions, the vice president and chairman of its finance committee.

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## New Addresses of Missionaries

Arnold, Robert H., 1301 Hillside Ave., Waco, Texas

Barnhart, E. Paul, 324 So. Louise Ave., Azusa, Calif.

Bergman, Richard D., 5921 Frontenac St., Philadelphia 24, Pa. (Loan Mission)

Brynjolfsson, Eirikur, 2776 W. 10th Ave., Vancouver, B. C., Canada

Caune, Elmars, 10827 — 114th St., Edmonton, Alta., Canada

Doering, Edgar, 211 Chippewa St., Jeffersonville, Ind.

Eastlack, John W., 4302 Kensington Rd., Baltimore 29, Md.

Ferguson, Kenneth, Box O, Christiansted, St. Croix, Virgin Islands

Foelsch, Charles B., 2750 Marin Ave., Berkeley 8, Calif. (Board Member)

Funk, Paul Wm., 710 Hemlock, Pocatello, Idaho

Furman, Wilmer F., 2918 Davenport Ave., Davenport, Ia.

Furney, Michael D., 5416 W. 70th St., Minneapolis 20, Minn.

Gerberding, John H., P.O. Box #4, Menomonee Falls, Wis.

Gloeckler, Nickolai, Box 9, Ponoka, Alta., Canada

Haag, George F., 2739 Hamburg St., Schenectady, N. Y.

Haskel, Robert, 5217 Philip, Detroit, Mich.

Hirsch, Edwin J., 3239 Quincy Drive 2-N, Kansas City, Mo. (New Field)

Holmquist, George L., 915 Cummings Lane, Salem, Ore.

Horn, Laurence G., 1189 Easton Road, Roslyn, Pa.

Jones, Jr., Frank C., 1661 Altadena Place S.W., Atlanta, Ga.

Kimm, Wesley K., 2407 Eastchester Rd., New York 69, N. Y. (Loan Mission)

Klover, William W., 431 Lincoln Blvd., Santa Monica, Calif. (Loan Mission)

Knudsen, Dale L., P.O. Box 342, Los Alamos, N. M.

Kopperman, Walter, 3255 North 15th St., Philadelphia 40, Pa.

Kragthorpe, Maynard T., 10015 Oak Lane, S.W., Tacoma, Wash. (New Field)

Lignell, Robert J., 2829 Edgewood Ave., N.E., Grand Rapids 5, Mich. (New Field)

Luebbe, Paul F., 1534 Taylor Ave., Baltimore 14, Md. (New Field)

Luke, Russell O., 12824—23rd Ave., N.E., Seattle 55, Wash. (New Field)

Machs, Edmunds, 3723 North 22nd St., Tacoma, Wash. (New Field)

Mueller, August W., 6707 Rosedale, Allen Park, Mich.

Olson, Stanley, 2222 South Fourth Ave., Yuma, Ariz. (New Field)

Rau, Jr., Harry L., Elberton, Ga.

Ruperts, F. H., 166 Margaret St., Kitchener, Ont., Canada

Sabins, Walter E., 1963 Carlson Blvd., Richmond, Calif.

Sala, Robert R., Monument Ave. & Horsepen Rd., Richmond 26, Va.

Schaeffer, Donald, 1907 Perkiomen Ave., Reading, Pa.

Schaeffer, William D., 19731 Avon Rd., Detroit 19, Mich.

Schneider, Richard C., 2800 Saturn Road, Garland, Texas

Schulz, John H., 11050 So. Old Shapokee Rd., Minneapolis 20, Minn.

Seiffert, James L., 9215—39th Ave., So. Seattle 8, Wash.

Senft, Kenneth C., 227 D Street, Redwood City, Calif.

Steck, Jr., Charles F., 215 So. Matanzas Ave., Tampa 9, Fla.

Steffens, George E., 2836 Claire Court, Sacramento 21, Calif. (New Field)

Stremel, William W., 3007 The Alemeda, Concord, Calif. (New Field)

Summer, Richard, 430 Liberty St., Hagerstown, Md.

Upton, Warren E., 123 Lynwood Ave., Belle Vernon, Pa.

Wingard, William F., 6321 Winyah Drive. Columbia, S. C.

Wise, Bernard F., 33 Riverdale Drive, Avondale, Charleston 42, S. C.

Wise, Stephen P., c/o Rev. Wray Smith, 603 Westview Blvd., Mansfield, Ohio (New Field)

Zinger, Don H., 4812 Marvin Road, Kansas City 16, Mo.

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## Resolutions Passed by Caribbean Synod

The Caribbean synod at its organizing convention passed two special resolutions that the Board feels warranted in passing on.

The first expresses the synod's "deep gratitude to the Board of American Missions for its guidance and support of Caribbean Missions ever since that Board came into being, and assures the Board of the Synod's earnest desires to give the Board the greatest possible cooperation in the future home mission program on its territory."

The second shows its "appreciation and recognition of Pastor Arbaugh for his continuous cooperation and contribution to the work in this area, and to the organization of the synod."

The Board itself in recognition of the great achievements in the West Indies sparked by Dr. Arbaugh, its divisional secretary for this field, devoted a luncheon period at its recent meeting in Philadelphia to his honor.

On the Sunday following the formation of the Caribbean Synod a beautiful chapel was dedicated at Sabana, a suburb of San Juan. The cost was $11,750, one-half of which was contributed in recent years by the Children of the Church throughout the ULCA.

## Successful Evangelism

*The eighteen people shown above with their pastor, the Rev. M. Roderick Anderson, of the newly organized Hope Church, Klamath Falls, Ore., were baptized at the organization service on May 4, 1952. Two other adults baptized at the time are not shown in the picture.*

## Benevolence From the Start

*St. Matthew's, Omaha, under the leadership of Board Missionary Gustav K. Huf has realized its part in the whole program of the whole Church from the time the mission developer first began services. The accompanying picture shows Pastor Huf presenting the first benevolence check to Treasurer Fred Wood of the Nebraska synod in the presence of President T. J. C. Shuldt and members of the new congregation. The congregation has called Pastor Huf to be its own minister and he was installed on July 13th.*

## Summary of Board's Convention Report

The formal report of the Board of American Missions made to the convention at Seattle for the biennium ending June 30th contains some interesting figures, especially as compared with the previous biennium. This time 173 new fields were surveyed as against 100 two years ago, and 107 showed need of investigation or development as compared with 72 previously. In addition to these new fields 20 older churches were granted mission status as against 24 reported in Des Moines.

To service these fields 57 pastors were called as Board Missionaries of whom 24 were recent seminary graduates. There are now 60 Board Missionaries developing congregations. The Board has also taken on 9 women workers as compared with 3 in the previous biennium. The total number of missionaries receiving salary aid at the close of the biennium was 391 and in addition there were 132 loan missions, making 523 home mission congregations on the roll.

Eighty new congregations were organized in the biennium as compared with 52. Help was given to 78 congregations for acquiring church sites vs. 36, 18 house chapels were financed as against 7, 71 church units were built as against 61 and 108 parsonages provided vs. 65. 437 churches have church extension loans totaling $5,770,000 as against 387 having $3,955,000 two years ago. One million dollars of this money has been repaid as over against $743,000 previously, 35 congregations having paid off their loans in full as compared with 39 previously.

Fifty-one D.P. pastors were under training, of whom only 7 have not completed that course. That compares with 33 and 24 reported in 1950.

449 missionaries and full time employees of the Board are on the rolls for hospitalization. 388 of these have dependents. The comparable figures two years ago were 373 and 321.

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## Leave Board Service

The following pastors have resigned their parishes and are no longer technically on the roll of missionaries of the Board:

The Rev. Harry C. Coovert, the Rev. William E. Hall, the Rev. Emory B. Heidt, the Rev. Luke L. Linebarger, the Rev. Rudolf Ludwig, the Rev. Dwight L. Miley, the Rev. Elmer S. Oleson, the Rev. P.G.R. Pfeiffer, the Rev. Lauri T. Pikkusaari, the Rev. Paul M. Ruff, the Rev. Albert P. Schilke, the Rev. Alfreds Skrodelis.

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## New Fields Entered

Mountain View, Calif., received the attention of the Board through the assignment of the Rev. Louis G. Gray beginning May 20, 1952.

The northeast section of Grand Rapids, Mich., was opened on June 1st by Board Missionary Robert J. Lignell.

The Latvians in scattered communities from Sudbury in Northern Ontario to Winnepeg are now being served by Board Missionary F. H. Ruperts.

This makes the total number of fields entered in 1952 thirty.

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## New Congregations

Allen Park, Mich., St. Matthew's was organized on June 15th with 85 confirmed members.

Rochester, N. Y., Good Shepherd, was organized on June 22nd with 138 confirmed members.

Allowing for corrections of previous lists this makes the total up to the present 28 for 1952.

## Welcome D. P. Pastor

The members of the Ceres congregation of the Bland, Va., parish, one of the twenty-two congregations associated with the Board's southern mountain work, were faced with the necessity of furnishing a parsonage for the new pastor, the Rev. Juhan Suurkivi. Pastor and Mrs. Suurkivi having been exiled from their original home in Estonia and having finished the clinical training period under the Board of American Missions ordinarily given D. P. pastors, accepted a call to this parish early in the summer. The parsonage of the parish is located in Ceres and the people responded to the need with real enthusiasm furnishing bedrooms, living room, kitchen and dining room. The chairman of the committee writes: "I only wish you could have been there when we took them through to see their new home. All three of them cried. They were so happy. Then we took them to the basement and showed them the canned food (over 150 cans), side meat, flour, sugar, ham, coffee and lots of other things to eat. Again they all cried. They were the happiest folks I ever saw. I really believe that Ceres and Bland will be linked closer together by this experience."

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## Board Members Honored

Secretary H. E. Isenhour of the Board was honored with a degree of LL.D. by Lenoir Rhyne College at its June commencement. Mr. Isenhour has served for twelve years as a member of the Board of American Missions and has contributed vitally to its life and spirit.

At the same exercises Board Missionary C. Ross Ritchie received the degree of doctor of divinity. He is the superintendent of the southern mountain work centering at Konnarock, Virginia, and is rapidly coordinating all phases of the Board's enterprise there.

## Typical Need for a Church

Missionary George E. Stauffer, who has gathered a strong congregation in York, Pa., graphically writes of some of the difficulties experienced by our growing missions. "Since September 17, 1950 we have been meeting in the Valley View elementary school." Recently they were notified that they must vacate the building as of January 1, 1953. "There is no other public building in our community. It is a practical impossibility to transport all our people, especially our children, to a public building elsewhere. With an average attendance of over 180 in Sunday school meeting in a home is impossible. Conservatively I estimate that the average attendance will be over 200 in the fall. Currently the church services average 125." It is a satisfaction to report that progress toward the building of a first unit church in this community is proceeding normally.

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## Conserving by Transferring

On one day in June the executive secretary received three letters from mission developers in various parts of the country telling of their disappointment in finding so few of those listed on the survey reports still resident in their communities. In the same mail he received a quarterly report from a missionary pastor telling that whereas 11 new members were received within the three months' period 10 had left. Yet all ten had been transferred to other Lutheran churches in distant parts. Of those ten, seven had never been Lutherans before. This fact consoled him and was the basis of the executive secretary's answer to the discouraged mission developers. These days the church is "ministering to a procession" and a part of its mission is to serve the fast moving people if only temporarily to preserve them to the church wherever they may go.

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## W. I. Ministerial Supply Promising

At the organizing convention of the Caribbean synod announcement was made of the availability of four men in preparation for the ministry. All are native Puerto Ricans. One is a minister of another denomination who has enrolled in Mount Airy Seminary. One graduated from the University of Puerto Rico this summer, one has one more year of college and another three years. These, in addition to seminarians from the States who are currently serving a clinical year in the islands, make the outlook more hopeful than it has been for many years.

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Missionary R. L. Nickel of Santa Ana, Calif., reports that "many of the most responsible positions within the congregation are held by people who never before belonged to a church and by others who have had little or no previous activity in church work." The congregation is looking forward to a building project to relieve the present necessity of transporting equipment for services every Sunday.

## Ye Editor Brags!

A baptism of the son of a home mission pastor at which two other home mission pastors were principals took place in a home mission church on May 22nd. Peter Harbridge, son of a missionary at Menominee, Mich., was baptized by his father's cousin, another home missionary then at Lancaster, Wis. and more recently at Menomonee Falls, Wis. The infant's uncle, pastor of Martin Luther mission, Milwaukee, and his wife, shown holding little Peter, were the sponsors. The picture shows also the mother of the infant with the Michigan pastor at whose church the service was held during the week of the Northwest synod meeting in neighboring Marinette, Wis. Their last names all are Gerberding, since they are progeny, direct, collaterally, or by marriage, of the BAM's executive secretary.

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## People Give

Missionary Quentin P. Garman of Christ, Pacific Beach, Calif., makes "a strong recommendation" that when mission congregations have successfully completed the normal two year financial campaign for church building they begin immediately with a new one year program. This is based upon the success that attended a two year cash and pledges program for $28,000 which was immediately followed by another for $18,000, with the result that $19,333 was subscribed. He also cites the experience of several other California churches who "have caught the vision of what God can do when His people have an intelligent plan for their church funding."

Missionary Paul W. Funk of the young congregation at Pocatello, Ida., reports that when President Steinhoff visited the congregation the members were so encouraged that in his presence they pledged $700 to wipe out a current expense debt and within a week three-fourths of the money had been paid in.

The choir of St. Paul's mission, Regina, Saskatchewan, in its urgent need for an organ solicited the members and friends of the congregation and within two weeks collected $1700 for the purchase of a new Minshall instrument.

## Faculty and Staff at Home Mission Training School

*Three training schools for home missionaries brought outstanding men and women from various parts of the church together with 156 home missionaries and their families for four solid days of inspiration and recreation. Typical of the faculties and staff is that of the school held at Hickory, N. C., shown above. Left to right they are Dr. P. A. Kirsch, dean; President G. L. Himmelman, chaplain; Miss Norman Linke, children's director; President R. R. Belter, lecturer on "The Will of God"; Judge J. F. Henninger on "The Church's Business", Mrs. Virgil Sease, lecturer to missionaries' wives; Secretary Knudsen, conductor of home mission round-table; and Dr. P. H. Roth, speaker at the Bible study periods. Similar schools, with comparable faculties, were held at Pine Lake, Wisconsin and Seabeck, Washington, as previously announced. Divisional secretary Paul A. Kirsch made the detailed plans for all of them, in line with his portfolio of Missionary Personnel for the Board.*